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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. REMAKING THE EC

A. GISCARD SENDS UP TRIAL BALLOON ON "DIRECTORATE"

A TRIAL BALLOON LAUNCHED BY GISCARD GENERATED A FLURRY OF PRESS ARTICLES ECHOING HIS APPEAL TO REORGANIZE THE EC EXECUTIVE ALONG THE LINES OF A SMALL CONFEDERAL EXECUTIVE "DIRECTORATE." AS THE FRENCH SEE IT:

--THE TINDEMANS REPORT GIVES TOO MUCH WEIGHT TO THE EC COMMISSION AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE EC EXECUTIVE POWER.

--THE "DIRECTORATE" WOULD BE LIMITED TO FRANCE, GER-
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MANY, GREAT BRITAIN AND, PERHAPS, ITALY AND ONE OR

TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF SMALLER COUNTRIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE FRENCH HAVE LONG FELT THAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS SHOULD BE HANDLED BY THOSE NATIONS WHICH REALLY HOLD THE POWER TO DETERMINE THEIR OUT-

COME. THIS LATEST PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, MAY BE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GISCARD'S TENDENCY TO LAUNCH FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES WITHOUT MUCH PREPARATION WITHIN OR OUTSIDE FRANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 4343, 2/13.)

B. AND THE GERMANS DEFLATE IT

FOLLOWING THE FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT NEAR NICE FEBRUARY 13, THE GERMAN SPOKESMAN IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS SAID THAT WHILE GISCARD HAD NOT RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH SCHMIDT, THE FRG DISAPPROVED OF THE IDEA OF A RESTRICTED "DIRECTORATE." HE STATED HIS GOVERNMENT THINKS A DIRECTORATE OF THIS TYPE WOULD DO LITTLE TO ADVANCE THE WORK OF THE EC AND WOULD NOT ENHANCE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. (UNCLASSIFIED) PARIS 4614, 2/13.)

2. SAHARAN IMPASSE CONTINUES

THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS BRIEFED AMBASSADOR PARKER ON EGYPTIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE AND INDICATED:

--TALKS BETWEEN THE ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND BECAUSE OF INTRANSIGENCE ON BOTH SIDES REGARDING THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE.

--THE ALGERIAN ARMY, WHILE WELL-EQUIPPED, IS ILL-TRAINED AND UNIMPRESSIVE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ALGERIANS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THEIR SAHARA POLICY AND ARE LOOKING FOR FRIENDS. THE MOROCCAN REFUSAL TO DISCUSS SELF-DETERMINATION MEANS THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT FOR THE MOMENT. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE ARE IN FOR A PROLONGED
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PERIOD OF TENSION. (SECRET) ALGIERS 396 (EXDIS), 2/13.)

3. PRC: TENG'S ATTACKERS MAY BE UNDER ATTACK

USLO PEKING REPORTS THAT EVENTS THIS WEEK--THE APPEARANCE OF POSTERS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY AND A LEAD STORY IN THE FEBRUARY 13 PEOPLE'S DAILY CRITICAL OF VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO PING--HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT TENG AND HIS DOMESTIC

POLICIES ARE UNDER SHARP ATTACK FROM THE LEFT. USLO PEKING SEES THIS AS EVIDENCE THAT A MAJOR STRUGGLE IS UNDERWAY IN THE TOP LEADERSHIP WITH THE KEY STAKES BEING:

--THE SUCCESSION TO MAO; AND

--THE CHOICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: JUDGING SOLELY FROM THIS WEEK'S EVENTS, ONE WOULD PREDICT TENG'S FALL FROM POWER, THE CHASTISEMENT OF MANY OTHER LEADERS, AND A SHARPLY LEFTWARD SHIFT IN DOMESTIC POLICY. HOWEVER, SUCH A PREDICTION WOULD GIVE UNDUE WEIGHT TO NOISE FROM THE LEFT, I.E. FROM LEADERS WHO DESPITE THEIR PRESENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA AND CAMPUSES MAY THEMSELVES ACTUALLY BE ON THE DEFENSIVE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PEKING 254, 2/13.)

4. RABIN-PERES TENSION UNDERSCORES COALITION WEAKNESS

EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT THE "ARMS SUPPLY LIST AFFAIR" HAS WEAKENED RABIN'S DOMESTIC STANDING BY:

--BRINGING TO THE SURFACE THE RABIN-PERES RIVALRY;

--AGAIN RAISING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SENIOR ISRAELI LEADERS CAN WORK EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER;

--PUTTING IN SHARP RELIEF THE WEAKNESS OF THE RABIN COALITION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE IS MORE UNCERTAIN THAN IT WAS BEFORE RABIN WENT TO WASHINGTON, BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THE CURRENT TENSIONS WILL SUB-
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SIDE. THE MOST SERIOUS ASPECT OF THIS SITUATION IS THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL INFIGHTING MAY BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE ARAB STATES AND LEAD TO A SERIOUS MISCALCULATION ON THEIR PART. FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW THE CURRENT WEAKNESS OF THE RABIN GOVERNMENT CLEARLY AFFECTS ITS ABILITY TO TAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND REINFORCES RABIN'S PREFERENCE FOR MOVING SLOWLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 1088, 2/13.)

5. ALLON WILL VISIT MEXICO, COSTA RICA

A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR TOON THAT ALLON WILL VISIT MEXICO AND COSTA RICA EARLY NEXT MONTH. THE OFFICIAL ALSO COMMENTED THAT ISRAELI-MEXICAN RELATIONS SEEM TO BE RETURNING TO THEIR FORMER FRIENDLY STATE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 1082, 2/13.)

6. DEADLINES FOR US WEAKEN AS THAI ELECTIONS APPROACH

EMBASSY BANGKOK OBSERVES THAT THE END OF FEBRUARY DEADLINE
ORIGINALLY GIVEN FOR AGREEING ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR AMERI-
CAN FORCES REMAINING IN THAILAND IS "FATUOUS." THE THAI
APPEAR RELUCTANT TO FORCE THE ISSUE:

--DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN TOLD THE TIME CORRESPONDENT
FEBRUARY 13 THAT THE US PRESENCE WILL NOT BE AN ELEC-
TION ISSUE (A STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY MADE BY THE PRIME
MINISTER AS WELL).

--THE THAI MAY WISH TO SLIDE THROUGH THE MARCH 20 DEAD-
LINE AND ELECTIONS WITHOUT REACHING ANY CONCLUSIONS ON
THE RESIDUAL FORCE ISSUE.

--FAILURE TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS BY MARCH 20 MIGHT
BE OPERATIONALLY AWKWARD FOR US BUT WOULD DEFUSE THE
QUESTION OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE DURING A VOLATILE
POLITICAL PERIOD. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 3366 (LIM-
DIS), 2/13.)

7. LAGOS CALM AFTER ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT

EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTS THAT THE CITY REMAINED QUIET AT MID-
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NIGHT (6 P.M. EST) UNDER A DUSK TO DAWN CURFEW. RADIO
ANNOUNCEMENTS PERIODICALLY REPEAT THE DEFEAT OF THE COUP
ATTEMPT LED BY LT. COL. DIMKA. ALL BORDERS AND AIRPORTS
ARE CLOSED. (UNCLASSIFIED) LAGOS 1873 AND 1869, 2/13.) KISSINGER

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